

Act and other things to support victims of domestic violence.

The challenge I face here, and I think we all face, is that this is not a good offset. As Chair of the Research and Education Subcommittee of the Science Committee, I have met extensively with the National Science Foundation, and I will tell you that they are already substantially overstretched in their ability to manage the numbers of grant applications and oversee the grants that are already being administered.

The President himself has asked for a substantial increase in funding for the National Science Foundation. That has broad bipartisan support within this body and within the other body.

If we were to cut the management funds, as this proposes, we would dramatically impair the NSF's ability to manage that increase; indeed, to manage their current workload.

I have met with the people managing the grant process at the NSF. I have met with the applicants, and we have spent extensive time on this in our subcommittee. While I support the intent of trying to provide more funding for violence against women, this is not the way to do it.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BAIRD. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. I would like to read very briefly from the agency operation and award management section because I agree with you. I was a science major in college. I am very dedicated to the forward-leaning research and development that NSF has provided.

But in this particular account, this is for agency operations and award management necessary in carrying out the National Science Foundation Act, services authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, hire of passenger motor vehicles, not to exceed \$9,000 for official reception and representation expenses, uniforms or allowances therefor, rental of conference rooms in the District of Columbia, and reimbursement for security guard services.

I tried to look for an area that would not harm research or researchers or the dedicated folks that are working on forward-leaning and futuristic advances for our Nation. I am very concerned about domestic violence in the rural area, and that is why I pinpointed this particular area.

Mr. BAIRD. I appreciate that. I understand you have done that, and I respect the diligence here.

The challenge they face is they are literally bursting at the seams. They do not have office space, sufficient computer architecture, they do not have sufficient personnel. I can't vouch, and it would be foolish for any of us to try to line-item or justify each and every expense, but I can tell you what they have told me is they lack the space.

If you are finding items for conference room rentals for meetings, that

is perfectly understandable to me that when you have people coming back to have meetings, you may occasionally need additional space.

My bottom line here is this is an agency that I think by and large gives a very strong return on investment for the government and for the taxpayers, and a \$10 million cut to an administrative fund for an agency that already tells us they lack adequate resources I think is excessive.

I am sorry, I am going to have to say we should defeat this amendment and try to find other ways. As the distinguished gentleman mentioned earlier, we have already seen substantial investments in this area over and above the President's request as far as the area of violence against women.

□ 1700

I would just encourage the gentlelady to say well done to the Democratic majority for adding to this relative to what the President offered.

But I would urge my colleagues, and I can tell you personally from having met with and visited with NSF administration, they do not feel, and my understanding, they can sustain a \$10 million cut to any portion of their budget. But the administration portion is what enables them to manage the grants, to manage the research that this country's future and domestic security and economic competitiveness depends on.

So I'd urge defeat of this well-intentioned amendment with unfortunately an undesirable offset.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from West Virginia will be postponed.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FATTAH) having assumed the Chair, Mr. SNYDER, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3093) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO REDUCE TIME FOR ELECTRONIC VOTING DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3093

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, during con-

sideration of H.R. 3093 pursuant to House Resolution 562, the Chair may reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 of rule XX.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that reduced-time voting in the Committee of the Whole may span the intervention of a rising of the Committee for the administration of the oath of office to a Representative-elect in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are advised that the 2-minute voting authority just granted may be applied to questions already postponed.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1495, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. Oberstar, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Mrs. Tauscher, Messrs. Baird, Higgins, Mitchell, Kagen, McNERNEY, Mica, Duncan, Ehlers, Baker, Brown of South Carolina, and Boozman.

From the Committee on Natural Resources, for consideration of secs. 2014, 2023, and 6009 of the House bill, and secs. 3023, 5008, and 5016 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Mr. Rahall, Mrs. Napolitano, and Mrs. McMorris Rodgers.

There was no objection.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 562 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 3093.

□ 1705

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3093) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on